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9 January 1959

INFORMATION REPORT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO.
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DATE OF REPORT
10 January 1959
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REQUEST NO.
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FROM
CINCNEELM REP POFPT, APO 757
SOURCE
Personnel Contact
SUBJECT
Japan, India Uranium - Uranium Oxide Plants: sale of by DEGUSSA
WEST GERMANY/ Other DEGUSSA activities of interest

BRIEF (FOR REPORTS OF MORE THAN ONE PAGE, ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY)
SALE OF COMPLETE URANIUM - URANIUM OXIDE PLANTS TO INDIA AND JAPAN BY DEGUSSA, FFM, IS CONFIRMED. NO PRICE OR CONDITIONS OF SALE ARE REVEALED, BUT IT IS NOTED THAT "STIFF AMERICAN AND BRITISH COMPETITION" HAD TO BE OVERCOME TO MAKE THE SALE. AN AMERICAN TRIP BY DEGUSSA RESEARCH DIRECTOR IS NOTED. A NEW DEGUSSA COATING IS REPORTED.

Ref: (a) CINCNEELM REP POFPT IR-188-58 of 10 July 1958
(b) CINCNEELM REP POFPT IR-174-58 of 25 June 1958
(c) CINCNEELM REP POFPT IR-268-57 of 6 December 1957

Encls: (1) (ONI ONLY) DEGUSSA Folder distributed at "Atoms for Peace" exhibition, GENEVA, Sep 1958

1. General. This report is an amplification of references (a), (b) and (c) on the West German firm of DEGUSSA.

DEGUSSA has sold complete Uranium Oxide plants to India and to Japan in the face of "stiff American and British competition". No details of the sale were revealed. As yet DEGUSSA has done little selling of fuel elements to Italy and other foreign countries. U.S. and British reactor manufacturers insist on selling the initial loading with the reactor. For subsequent loadings DEGUSSA hopes to gain a greater share of the market.

Dr. A. Boettcher, Research Director of DEGUSSA, will visit America in February about 3-4 weeks, and will range "from Canada to Mexico City". A Dr. (fma) Curtis of New York is making detailed arrangements for his American tour. An earlier planned trip to address a fuel element symposium in New York in January had to be cancelled because Dr. visitors are expected at DEGUSSA on 2-4 February.

DEGUSSA feels that in contracts with American government organizations German firms do not get the same patent privileges that American Firms enjoy.

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Dr. Boettcher will discuss this as well as "the Plutonium question" on his trip to the U.S..

DEGUSSA has approximately 900 persons in its nuclear plant at Wolfgan/Hannu. This plant only contains a laboratory pilot plant for fuel element manufacture; a larger plant is expected to be built "a bit further out in that direction (from FRANKFURT/M)".

Another DEGUSSA plant in the Hannu area employs an additional 900 persons in the manufacture of a synthetic leather (poly-vinyl-chloride).

(UNCLASSIFIED)

"INVERON" COATING

DEGUSSA has a very strong thin "glass-type" coating which is very heat resistant and which DEGUSSA feels might be of value in coating leading edges of aircraft wings. A Dr. (fn) LOERICH of the Hannu plant Metal Laboratory has continued in the development of this where Dr. Boettcher left off. This coating, while heat resistant, is very transparent to heat. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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INFORMATION REPORT

FORM 88-6 (11-60) (REV. 11-60)

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Source Information: Personal conversation with Dr. A. Boettcher, Research Director, BHEUSSA, on 9 January 1959.

Preparing Officer's Comments: BHEUSSA is a leader in the nuclear field in Germany, and is aggressively pursuing international markets for its products. It is possible that additional details on the plants sold to Japan and India may be obtained during further contacts on other matters in the near future. This is believed of interest to Op-9220.

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